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HISTORY OF STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND

FY 1972

HISTORICAL STUDY NO. 121 (U)

VOLUME VIII

CHAPTER I

EXHIBITS
5 thru 33

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HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND

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BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND

DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION, OFFUTT AFB, NEB., 68113 (402) 294-2284/4433

Commander in Chief
Strategic Air Command &
Director, Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff

GENERAL JOHN C. MEYER

General John C. Meyer is Commander in Chief of the Strategic Air Command and Director, Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebr. SAC is the United States' long-range strike force comprised of a mixture of combat aircraft and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

General Meyer, born in (b) (6) [redacted] attended schools in the New York City area and graduated from Dartmouth College with a bachelor of arts degree in political geography. He enlisted in the Air Corps in November 1939. In July 1940 he was commissioned a second lieutenant and awarded his pilot wings.

After several flying assignments, he commanded the 487th Fighter Squadron in the 352d Fighter Group, a part of the Eighth Air Force. He led the squadron into combat during World War II in the European Theater of Operations and participated in several of the major campaigns, including Ardennes-Alsace, Northern France, and Rhineland. By November 1944, while serving as Deputy Commander, 352d Fighter Group, he had become the leading American Ace in Europe with a total of 37½ aircraft destroyed in the air or on the ground. He completed 200 combat missions and 462 combat flying hours.

Following World War II, General Meyer served in a variety of assignments which led to his selection in 1948 as the Secretary of the Air Force's principal point of contact with the U. S. House of Representatives. General Meyer then returned to a tactical unit in August 1950 when he assumed command of the 4th Fighter Group at New Castle, Del. He deployed his F-86 group to Korea and participated in the First United Nations Counteroffensive and Chinese Communist Forces Spring Offensive campaigns. He completed 31 combat sorties and destroyed two communist MIG-15 aircraft, bringing his total of enemy aircraft destroyed to 39½.

General Meyer, after a tour of duty as Director of Operations for Air Defense Command and Continental Air Defense Command, graduated from the Air

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PEACE IS OUR PROFESSION

(Current as of May 11, 1972)

EX 8

War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., in June 1956, and was retained as an instructor at the College. He was then assigned to the Strategic Air Command where he commanded air divisions in the northeast United States. In July 1962 he was assigned to the Headquarters of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebr., as the Deputy Director of Plans. While assigned to SAC, he also served as the Commander's representative to the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff, a specialized joint staff which develops and maintains key war plans for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In November 1963 General Meyer became the Commander of the Tactical Air Command's Twelfth Air Force with headquarters at Waco, Tex. Twelfth Air Force provided forces for joint logistic and close air support training with Army forces stationed in the western half of the United States.

In February 1966 he was assigned to the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff where he served first as Deputy Director then Vice Director of the Joint Staff. In May 1967 he became the Director of Operations on the Joint Staff.

He was then selected to be the Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force, and assumed those duties in August 1969. He served as the Vice Chief of Staff through April 1972. On May 1, 1972, he became the seventh Commander in Chief of the Strategic Air Command.

General Meyer's military career has included a broad variety of assignments. He has held operational jobs in air defense interceptors, tactical fighters and strategic bombers. He has also been a key member of the Joint Staff, the Headquarters U. S. Air Force staff, and the Strategic Air Command staff. He has been called upon to command major tactical and strategic units, and is now the Commander of the Strategic Air Command.

His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross with two oak leaf clusters, Distinguished Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Silver Star with one oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with six oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with 14 oak leaf clusters, Croix de Guerre with palm (France), and Croix de Guerre with palm (Belgium).

General Meyer is married to the former (b) (6) of (b) (6). He and (b) (6) have five children: (b) (6), (b) (6) (b) (6) and (b) (6)

EX 8

PERSONAL FACT SHEET

A. Personal Data

1. Born - (b) (6) [redacted], Brooklyn, N. Y.; father - (b) (6) [redacted] (deceased); mother - (b) (6) [redacted].

2. Married - Apr. 4, 1945; wife - (b) (6) [redacted]; children - (b) (6) [redacted] and (b) (6) [redacted]

B. Education

1. Graduate, Mercersburg Academy, Mercersburg, Pa., 1937.
2. Graduate, Flying Schools, Randolph & Kelly Flds., Tex., 1940.
3. Graduate, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H., B.A., 1948.
4. Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala., 1956.

C. Service

1. Nov 1939 - July 1940 Student, Primary, Basic & Advanced Flying Schools, Randolph & Kelly Flds., Tex.

2. Aug 1940 - June 1941 Instr., Basic Flying School, Randolph Fld., Tex., and Gunter Fld., Ala.

3. July 1941 - Jan 1942 Ftr. cont. & plt., 33d Pursuit Sq., Iceland.

4. Jan 1942 - Sept 1942 Flt. Comdr., 33d Ftr. Wg., ETO.

5. Sept 1942 - Nov 1942 Instr. Plt., 98th Ftr. Sq., Tampa, Fla.

6. Dec 1942 - June 1943 Comdr., 34th Ftr. Sq., Westover Fld., Mass., & later La Guardia Fld. and Mitchel Fld., N. Y.

7. July 1943 - Nov 1944 Comdr., 487th Ftr. Sq., ETO.

8. Nov 1944 - Feb 1945 Dep. Comdr., 352d Ftr. Gp., ETO.

9. Feb 1945 - July 1945 Dir., 1st Ftr. Comd., Gunnery School, Suffolk County AAF, N. Y.

10. July 1945 - Dec 1945 Dep. Air Base Comdr., 135th AAFBU, Millville, N. J.

11. Dec 1945 - Apr 1946 Dep. Asst. CofS, A-4, 102d AAFBU & later Asst. to Asst. CofS, A-2, 100th AAFBU, Mitchel Fld., N. Y.

12. Apr 1946 - May 1946 Asst. CofS, A-3, 300th AAFBU, Tampa, Fla.

13. May 1946 - Sept 1946 Ops. Ofcr., 312th AAFBU, March Fld., Calif.

14. Sept 1946 - Feb 1948 Student, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.

15. Feb 1948 - July 1950 USAF Liaison Ofcr., House of Representatives, & later Asst. House Liaison Ofcr., OSAF, Washington, D. C.

16. Aug 1950 - June 1951 Comdr., 4th Ftr. Int. Gp., New Castle Co. Aprt., Del., later Korea & Japan.

17. June 1951 - Dec 1951 Exec. Ofcr. & later Dep. Comdr., 101st Ftr. Int. Wg., Grenier AFB, N. H., later Larson AFB, Wash.

18. Jan 1952 - Mar 1952 Dep. Comdr., 4703d Def. Wg., Larson AFB, Wash.

19. Mar 1952 - June 1955 Dir. of Ops. & Tng., DCS/Operations, ADC, Ent AFB, Colo.

20. June 1955 - June 1956 Student, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

21. July 1956 - June 1959 Faculty Member, Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

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22. June 1959 - Sept 1961 Comdr., 57th Air Div., Westover AFB, Mass.

23. Sept 1961 - July 1962 Comdr., 45th Air Div., Loring AFB, Maine.

24. July 1962 - Oct 1963 Dep. Dir. of Plans, Directorate of Plans, SAC, Offutt AFB, Nebr.

25. Nov 1963 - Jan 1966 Comdr., 12th Air Force, Waco, Tex.

26. Feb 1966 - Dec 1966 Dep. Dir., The Joint Staff, OJCS, Washington, D. C.

27. Jan 1967 - May 1967 Vice Dir., The Joint Staff, OJCS, Washington, D. C.

28. May 1967 - Aug 1969 Dir. for Operations, J-3, The Joint Staff, OJCS, Washington, D. C.

29. Aug 1969 - Apr 1972 Vice CofS, USAF, Washington, D. C.

30. May 1972 - Present Commander in Chief, Strategic Air Command and Dir. Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff, Offutt AFB, Nebr.

D. Decorations and Service Awards

Distinguished Service Cross w/2 oak leaf clusters
Distinguished Service Medal w/1 oak leaf cluster
Silver Star w/1 oak leaf cluster
Legion of Merit
Distinguished Flying Cross w/6 oak leaf clusters
Air Medal w/14 oak leaf clusters
Army Commendation Medal
Purple Heart
American Defense Service Medal w/1 service star
American Campaign Medal
Distinguished Unit Citation Emblem w/4 oak leaf clusters
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal w/5 service stars
World War II Victory Medal
National Defense Service Medal w/1 service star
Korean Service Medal w/3 service stars
Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon w/5 oak leaf clusters
Croix de Guerre w/palm (France)
Croix de Guerre w/palm (Belgium)
United Nations Service Medal
Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon

E. Effective Dates of Promotions

Grade	Temporary	Permanent
2d Lt		July 26, 1940
1st Lt	Oct 24, 1941	July 5, 1946
Capt	Jan 21, 1943	
Maj	Sept 2, 1943	Sept 3, 1948
Lt Col	Apr 18, 1944	July 12, 1951
Col	Jan 19, 1951	July 1, 1958
Brig Gen	Aug 1, 1959	Jan 30, 1962
Maj Gen	Apr 1, 1963	Feb 27, 1964
Lt Gen	June 12, 1967	
Gen	Aug 1, 1969	

(Date of Rank July 31, 1969)